

# Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, Illinois 62706



## MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 13, 1979  
TO: Division File  
FROM: L. A. Grills  
SUBJECT: Sangamon County LPC 16782516, Springfield/Buerkett #2

In response to a request from OSHA, Monte Nienkerk and I went to Buerkett's Landfill on 31st Street to talk with Deputy Chief Howard Beagles of the Springfield Fire Department, Jeff Lindstrom and Frederic Bock of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Ronald Vancil of Reilly Construction Company and Merle Buerkett of Buerkett's 31st Street landfill. The discussion concerned methane gas seeping into the Reilly Construction Company's office building located just north of Buerkett's 31st Street landfill. According to Deputy Chief Beagles, the area upon which the building was constructed was at one time a marshy area where extensive random dumping of garbage had taken place. In recent years, the area had been filled with concrete and brick. The fill was approximately 25 feet of demo and 5-8 feet of general refuse.

Reilly began constructing the building late in the summer of 1978. Ron Vancil said that during their drilling operations, they encountered a septic smell but no garbage. He also said that there was a musty odor on the site so they ran perforated pipes under the building to vent the musty odors. Merle Buerkett said that the footings of the building had caught fire several times, during construction. At the time we were there, an explosimeter reading taken from the vent pipe under the building foundation, indicated the gas present was within the explosive limits. This reading was taken by Jeff Lindstrom of OSHA.

Reilly Construction has decided to cap one end of the vent pipes and blow air through the other end. The forced air will hopefully create a positive pressure under the floor of the building and thus prevent the methane from accumulating. If necessary, wells will be set to vent or flare the methane. It does not appear that the problem involves the Buerkett Landfill.

LAG:jb/6763A/4

cc: Central Region  
Land FOS Manager  
Action Center  
John DeSeIm

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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